



**Public Information Meeting
for the proposed improvement of U.S. 30
in Tama and Benton Counties**

**April 20, 2010
4:30 – 6:30 pm
Belle Plaine High School – Library**

Welcome to the Iowa Department of Transportation's public information meeting for the proposed four-lane expansion of the U.S. 30 corridor in Tama and Benton Counties.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform you of the initiation of environmental field reviews along the corridor in both Tama and Benton counties. Reviews will include investigation of wetlands, regulated materials, and other biological information (threatened or endangered plants and animals). You will be contacted to gain access to your property, if necessary. The Iowa DOT asks for your cooperation by allowing the study teams to access your property.

Project History

A Planning Study for the U.S. 30 corridor through both Tama and Benton Counties was initiated in the mid 1990's. Some environmental field studies such as archaeology and historical investigations were completed during the initial study phase. Alternative roadway alignments were presented at a public information meeting in September 1999. The proposed concept for the improvements to U.S. 30 included upgrading the existing rural, two lane highway to a rural divided, four-lane highway generally following the existing alignment. The proposal at that time was to add two new lanes along the north side of the existing roadway from the east corporate limits of Tama to just east of the Salt Creek Bridge. The new lanes would then transition to the south side of the existing highway and remain there to the end of the project.

Current Project Status

It has been determined that the original project corridor, as identified in the 1990's Planning Study, will be divided and developed as two separate corridor studies. The studies will be split near the Tama and Benton County line.

- The west section (Tama County) will start at the east side of Tama and tie into the new bypass alignment. The project will proceed east to just west of the Tama/Benton County line. For this section, we will be collecting environmental field information only.
- The east section (Benton County) will start just west of the Tama/Benton County line and will extend east to the west junction of U.S. 218 to tie into the existing four-lane highway. For the Benton County project, we will be collecting environmental field information that was not collected with the mid 1990's study. We will also be developing roadway alternatives for

this section and will be preparing an environmental document. As part of the new study, we will be evaluating alternatives along both sides of the existing highway and will take into account all decisions/information included in the previous study regarding the location of the new lanes.

Over the months ahead, Iowa Department of Transportation and consultant staff will be present within the corridor to complete the environmental field reviews for both sections.

Project Schedule

The Benton County portion of the corridor is currently included in the 2010-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with \$6.1 million for right of way acquisition in 2014. The remainder of the U.S. 30 corridor, in Tama County, is not currently included in the 2010-2014 TIP; however, it may be considered during the preparation of future transportation programs.

Public Participation

If you have a comment, question, or concern regarding the environmental field studies or the corridor in general, please provide your comments during the meeting or forward them on the attached self addressed Citizen Comment form. Deadline for receipt of comments is May 3, 2010. A comment form is also available at the following website: <http://www/iowadot.gov/pim>.

Contact Us

If you have a comment or concern regarding the U.S. 30 Corridor Studies or would like to be added to the project mailing list, please fill out a comment form at tonight's meeting or contact:

Catherine Cutler

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Iowa Department of Transportation
District 6 Office
430 16th Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-3150
800-866-4368 (toll free)
Catherine.Cutler@dot.iowa.gov

Thank you for your participation in this meeting.

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.

Initiation of environmental field studies and highway improvements for the U.S. 30 corridor in Tama and Benton Counties from east of Tama / Toledo east to the west junction of U.S. 218

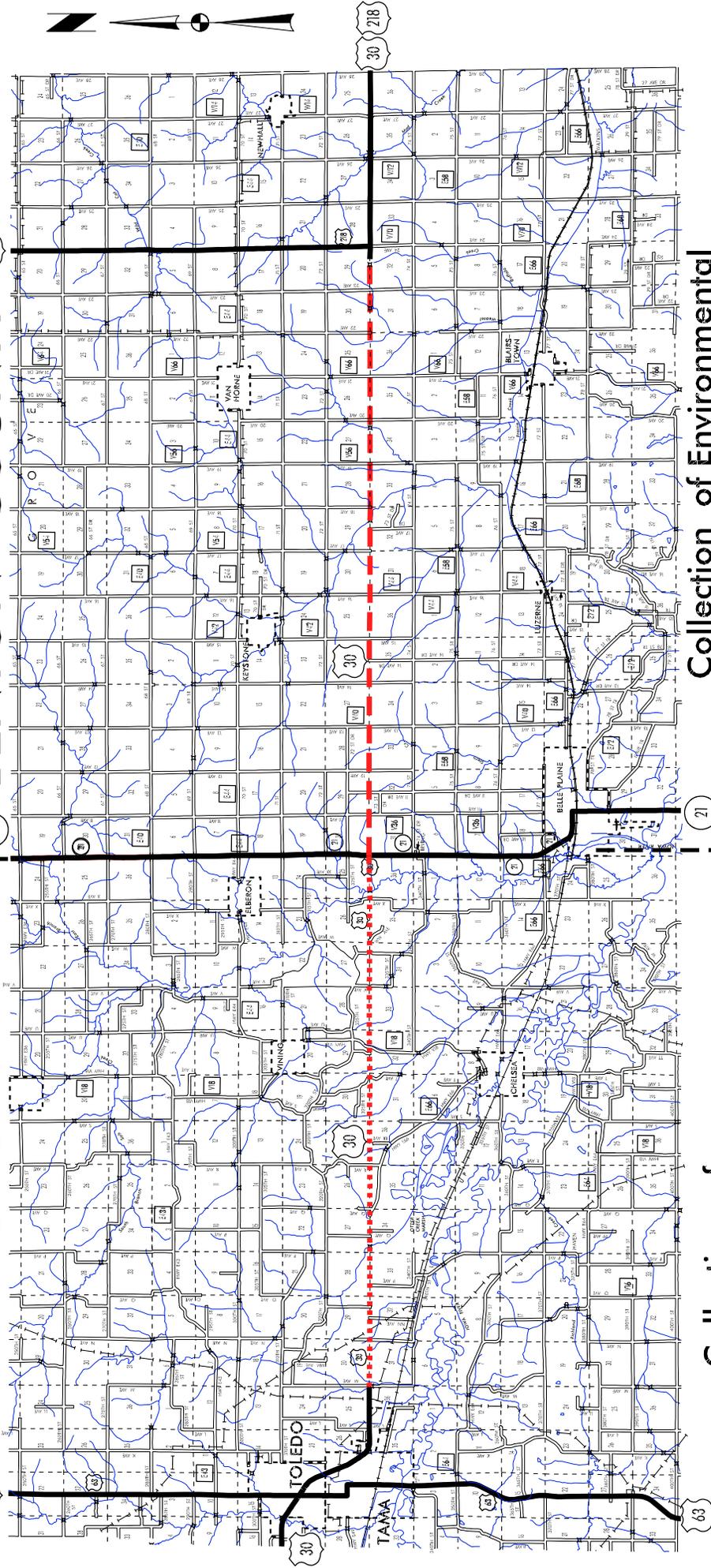


Iowa Department of Transportation

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
APRIL 20, 2010

TAMA COUNTY

BENTON COUNTY



Collection of Environmental Information

Collection of Environmental Information and Development Alternatives of Roadway Alternatives

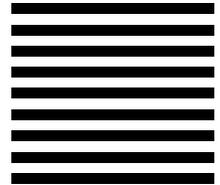
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